

and sharing in its future, by having our Island become a State of the Union.

That was his ideal and it is mine, and that of many in Puerto Rico. Just last November, a majority of our voters said Yes to Barbosa's vision, electing statehood. I am here to make sure that their voice is heard, as the best way to honor his memory and reaffirm his goal.

Barbosa's memory lives on, in everyone who seeks justice and equality for Puerto Rico.

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HONORING BRIAN WAGNER FOR  
RETIRING AS PRESIDENT OF  
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
POSTAL SUPERVISORS

**HON. DARIN LAHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 27, 2021*

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor and congratulate Brian Wagner on his retirement as National Association of Postal Supervisors President.

Brian has dedicated forty-three years to the betterment of the Postal Service. His incredible career began in Peoria, IL, in 1978. Twelve years later, Brian worked his way up to the role of Delivery & Retail Analyst and joined the National Association of Postal Supervisors (NAPS). After entering the USPS Management Trainee Program, Brian attained the role of Customer Relations Coordinator for the Peoria area. He retired from this role in 2015, marking the end of his exceptional tenure serving the Peoria area in the Postal Service.

Like his work for the Postal Service, Brian's involvement with NAPS highlights a robust effort to represent and assist his fellow postal workers. During his time at NAPS, Brian was President of Heart of IL Branch 255, Illinois State Area Vice President, and NAPS Secretary/Treasurer. He also served on the Executive Board as Central Region Vice President.

Brian was elected NAPS National President in 2016 and reelected in 2018, a testament to his lifelong commitment to and advocacy for the Postal Service and its employees.

I want to express the utmost gratitude to Brian. I am certain that my fellow Peorians feel the same pride and respect towards him that I do. His career serves as an example of how to honorably serve the public. He has undoubtedly improved the lives of Peorians and Americans more broadly. Most importantly, Brian accomplished all this while being a loving husband, father, and grandfather. Congratulations Brian, and I wish you happiness and relaxation in retirement.

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FIGHTING FOR THE RIGHT TO  
VOTE

SPEECH OF

**HON. MAXINE WATERS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 26, 2021*

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, let me start off by making one thing clear. The 15th amendment of the United States Constitution says, "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."

And so, I challenge the Supreme Court's decision that gutted Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. The Supreme Court's interpretation does the exact opposite of the 15th Amendment to the Constitution. But since the 2020 election that broke voter participation records and gave us a democratic majority, Georgia has been ground-zero for voter suppression efforts in this country.

Because Black people came out to vote in record numbers, Republican lawmakers in Georgia moved with lightning speed and surgical precision to restrict voting rights. State

lawmakers reached deep into their bag of tricks, including eliminating ballot drop box locations, limiting voting days and hours, instituting strict ID requirements, and even going as far as trying to make it a crime to distribute food and water to people waiting in long voting lines. It's clear that these laws aren't about protecting voters. It's about punishing voters for exercising their right to vote.

But it's not only Georgia. Since Election Day, we have been experiencing an all-out anti-democratic assault on our voting rights. Eighteen states, all led by Republican governors, have enacted voter suppression laws because they know that when we vote, they lose. They're playing scared, but we have got to play smart.

We have seen this type of backlash before. And just as we did in the 1960's, we must pass new civil rights legislation, including the John Lewis Voting Rights Act and the For the People Act, to protect and expand voting rights.

The legislation named after my dear friend and civil rights icon, the late Congressman John Lewis, would restore the Voting Rights Act to its full strength, and stem the tide against this flood of voter suppression laws.

The For The People Act establishes automatic voter registration. It prohibits the most common forms of voter roll purges. It increases access to the polls. It restores voting rights for the formerly incarcerated, among many other democracy saving provisions.

After an election filled with big lies and scare tactics, that culminated in the violent January 6 insurrection, the American people deserve hard assurances that their vote and their voice will continue to count. So, if the Senate needs to eliminate the filibuster to protect voting rights, then that is exactly what it must do.

This fight that we are in to protect our sacred right to vote is critical and urgent. Our democracy is on the line, and we are not without options to try and save it.